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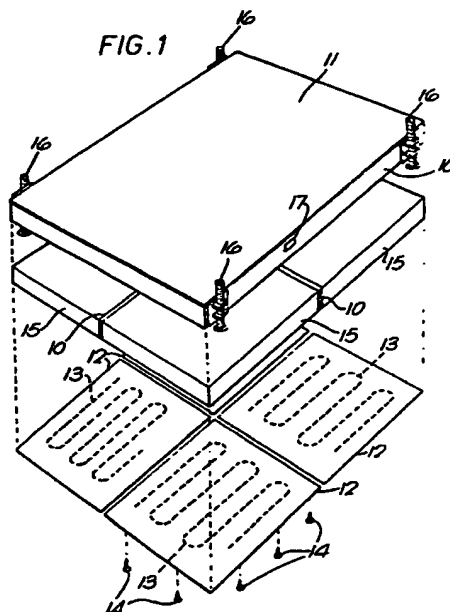
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GB 0888177 A

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(54) **Electrically heatable panel for use in rearing chicks**

(57) An electrically heatable panel for use in the rearing of chicks comprises a frame structure 10 closed on one side by a cover panel 11 and on its other side by one or a plurality of panels 12 provided with an electric heater element 13, thermal insulation 15 being provided between the cover panel 11 and the panel or panels 12, and said frame structure 10 being provided with legs 16 for supporting the electrically heatable panel in a horizontal position above a support surface with the heater element 13 lowermost so that chicks can group together beneath the electrically heatable panel when operative to receive heat from the heater element 13. Preferably the legs are adjustable to vary the height of the panel above the support surface.



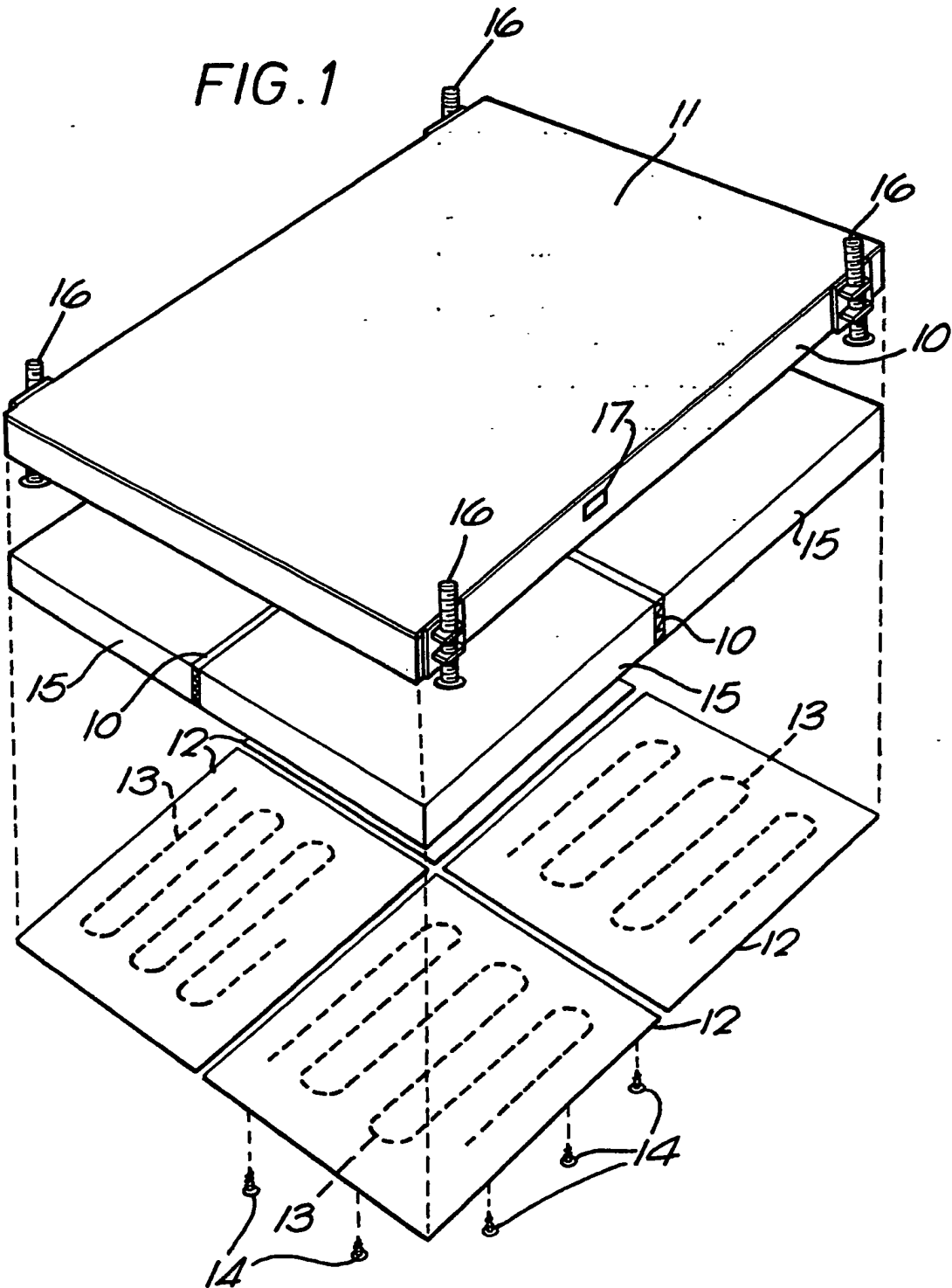
At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

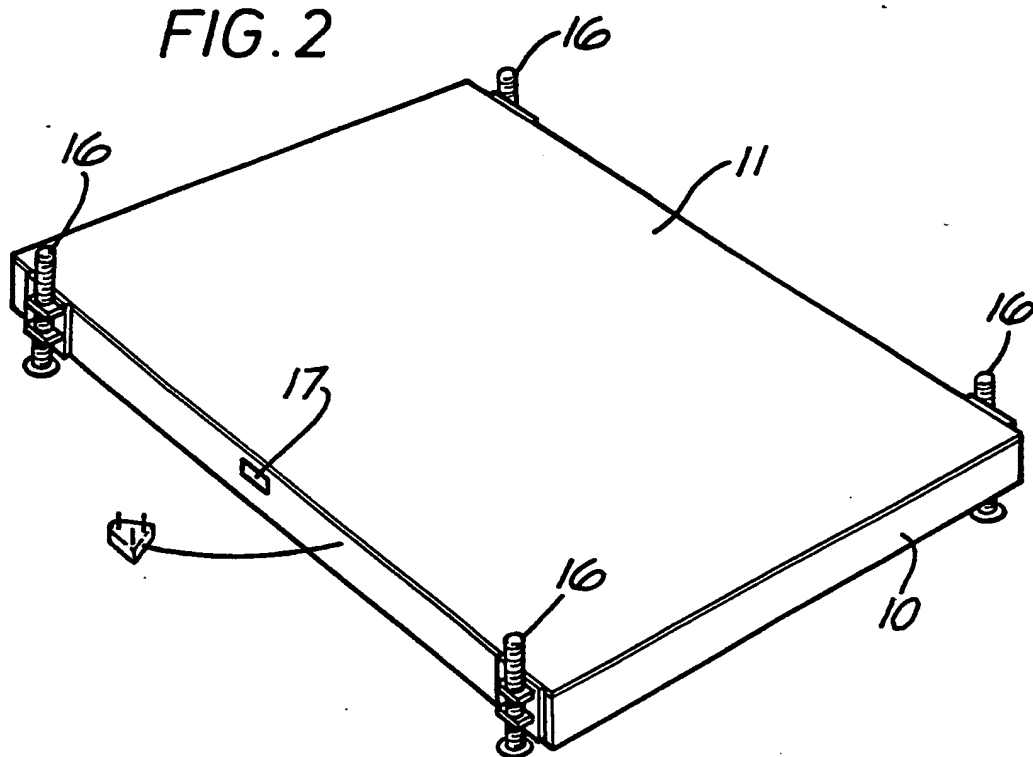
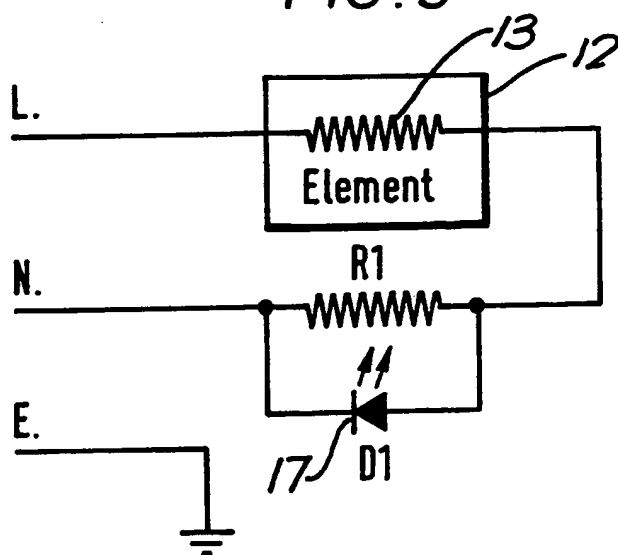


FIG. 3



ELECTRICALLY HEATABLE PANEL FOR USE IN REARING CHICKS

This invention relates to an electrically heatable panel for the use in the rearing of chicks, particularly, but not exclusively, game bird chicks.

According to the present invention there is provided an electrically heatable panel comprising a frame structure closed on one side by a cover panel and on its other side by a least one panel provided with an electric heater element, thermal insulation being provided between said cover panel and said at least one panel, and said frame structure being provided with legs for supporting the electrically heatable panel in a horizontal position with the heater element lowermost.

Preferably the legs are adjustable to enable the distance between the underside of the electrically heatable panel and the surface on which it stands to be varied.

Preferably there are provided a plurality of panels provided with an electric heater element, each heater element being connected to an electrical circuit by a plug and socket connector.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described, by way of an example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic exploded perspective view of an electrically heatable panel embodying the present invention,

Figure 2 is a diagrammatic perspective view of the electrically heatable panel, and

Figure 3 is a diagram of the electrical circuit of a heating element. The electrically heatable panel comprises a rectangular frame structure 10 which may be formed of wood and which is closed on its upper side by a cover panel 11 which may be formed of plywood. It will be appreciated that the frame structure 10 and panel 11 may be formed of metal or a suitable plastics material. The frame structure 10 may also be formed as an integral part of the cover panel 11.

Secured to the underside of the frame structure 10 are rectangular panels 12 each provided on its underside with an electrical resistance heating element 13. The panels 12 are preferably formed of plywood and

the heating elements 13 preferably comprise a 75 Watt resistance heating element enclosed in a plastics blanket mounted on the underside of the panel 12. The elements 13 are preferably secured to the panels 12 by screws which pass through insulated blocks and are connected to the electrical circuit by plug and socket connectors (not shown). The panels 12 are fixed to the frame structure 10 by screws 14. There may be two or four or more panels 12, the number depending upon the number of heating elements 13 required. Thermal insulation 15 is provided between the cover panel 11 and the panels 12. The thermal insulation 15 may comprise glass fibre or any other suitable thermal insulation material.

Provided at each corner of the frame structure 10 are legs 16 which preferably comprise screw-threaded members so that they are adjustable in order to enable the distance between the underside of the heatable panel and the surface on which it stands to be varied.

Each heating element 13 is connected in an electrical circuit containing an indicator 17, such as a light emitting diode, which gives a visual indication that the heating element 13 is operative.

In use, the heatable panel is supported by the legs 16 above a tray or other support surface on which a plurality of chicks are placed and the chicks can move under the heatable panel to keep warm.

CLAIMS

1. An electrically heatable panel for use in the rearing of chicks, comprising a frame structure closed on one side by a cover panel and on its other side by a least one panel provided with an electric heater element, thermal insulation being provided between said cover panel and said at least one panel, and said frame structure being provided with legs for supporting the electrically heatable panel in a horizontal position with the heater element lowermost.
2. An electrically heatable panel as claimed in claim 1, in which the legs are adjustable to enable the distance between the underside of the electrically heatable panel and the surface on which it stands to be varied.
3. An electrically heatable panel as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which are provided a plurality of panels each provided with an electric heater element, each heater element being connected to an electrical circuit by a plug and socket connector.
4. An electrically heatable panel as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the or each heating element is enclosed in a blanket mounted on the underside of said at least one panel.
5. An electrically heatable panel as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the or each heating element is connected to an electrical circuit containing an indicator for visually indicating that the heating element is energized.
6. An electrically heatable panel as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the frame and cover panel are integral.
7. An electrically heatable panel for use in the rearing of chicks, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.